

BLUAC Steering Committee September 1, 2005 Minutes

Chairman Averill called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM. With a larger group in attendance, Chairman Averill asked everyone to introduce themselves. List of attendance attached. Minutes of the August 25, 2005 meeting were read, and approved as read.

Old Business:

Chairman Averill reported that the Methodology and Results had been corrected, according to revisions discussed at the last meeting, and printed. Copies of the report and comments were presented to BLUAC members at their regular meeting, August 25, 2005. There is also a copy at the Bigfork Library. Don Loranger reported that Sheila DeLaCruz has volunteered to refine the presentation for text-wrap and section divisions.

Averill reported that a copy of the results and comments were delivered to Flathead County Planner, Jeff Harris, at the meeting on August 26, 2005, at the Planning Office. Noting that Jeff Harris and BJ Grieve were not present at this meeting as expected, he asked those who had attended the meeting to comment on their impressions of the meeting.

Don Loranger stated that he was disappointed that Harris and Grieve were not present to clarify some points. He indicated his disappointment that Harris had stated that the Planning Board would decide zoning for Bigfork and that they do not need the Neighborhood Plan to complete the Growth Policy. He also repeated Harris's statement that he had received no guidance from the elected leadership of the county. He left the meeting feeling that our efforts will have no impact on county planning.

Denise Lang expressed concern that, even if we proceed with our plans to gather more public input at public meetings and develop mapping for the Bigfork Neighborhood plan, the county will not consider our efforts. She recalled Harris saying that there were 13 neighborhood plans in Flathead County, and that probably 10 of those plans will not be included in the county's final Master Plan.

Doug Averill commented that Harris has different views on the development of the Growth Policy, which are not the same as those expressed by Sanderson and Morrison to the Steering Committee. He feels it is time for us to perhaps switch gears and hopefully incorporate members of this group into the county planning effort. He noted that we have considerable resources that would be helpful to the county effort. Don Loranger added that we need to ask the county what resources they need the most. He confirmed that our community has some great resources to offer. Members were reminded of the county website where information on the process of the Growth Policy work was posted and that the county will email those reports to individuals, if requested.

John Bourquin got the sense that Harris has great "dancing shoes". He added that before we redirect our efforts in a different direction, we need to sit down with Harris and hear from his lips more clarification.

Clarice Ryan expressed that there are other resources at work that we may be unaware of. She noted that Jerry Nix, Long Range Planner appointed by the Flathead County Commissioners, will be speaking to the Montanans For Multiple Use on September 20, 2005, at the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks building at 7:00 PM.

Sue Hanson noted that Harris had no answer to the question of how public input will be assessed. She suggested that if only those who spoke or wrote letters were considered, it would not be totally representative of the entire group. She suggested that there be a sheet of paper offered to everyone attending the public meetings where they might jot down their thoughts after receiving more information on the survey results and the process.

Averill suggested forming a sub-committee to study viable options for Bigfork such as, special townships, improvement districts, incorporation or establishing another county. Don Loranger moved a sub-committee be formed for this purpose. Craig Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Averill asked Don Loranger to chair the committee. Others expressing interest in working on

the sub-committee were Buz Meyer, John Bourquin, Craig Wagner, Shelley Gonzales, Kelly Johns Sagami, Julie Cassetta, Elna Darrow, Denise Lang, Clarice Ryan and Woody Nedom. Elna Darrow pledged 1/3 of the cost of hiring university resources from Bozeman to study the options. Katie Brown and Denise Lang jumped in with pledges for the remaining 2/3 cost.

Carol James noted that the Northshore Harbor Homeowners Assn. will have their annual meeting on September 10th and would appreciate the presentation on the survey results. Suggestions of other groups to meet with were Flathead County Commissioners, Bigfork Sewer & Water, Bigfork Retailers and the Bigfork Schools. A full page ad was suggested in the Bigfork Eagle and Lakeshore County Journal to publicize the survey results.

Woody Nedom suggested printing and binding the results of the survey and offering them for sale, at the cost of printing, to the public. Copies could be made available at the Bigfork Chamber, Book Store and other businesses in the community. Craig Wagner made the motion to print, bind and sell the survey results at cost. Elna Darrow seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Placing the survey information on a website was discussed again. Jim Jackson offered to teach how to set up a website of our own. Those willing to jump into this project were Sue Hanson, Pat Wagner, Shelley Gonzales, Julie Cassetta and Carol James.

Pat Wagner volunteered to take minutes for next week's meeting in Sue Hanson's absence. Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Sue Hanson
Secretary